Decline in investment in the Agriculture Sector

*33. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that investment in the agriculture sector has declined considerably over the years resulting in a lower rate of capital formation;

(b) whether the above views have recently been expressed by eminent agricultural economists; and

(c) if so, what were the main reasons for the decline in farm investment and what steps are being taken to improve the same?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM (SHRI DEVI LAL) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir

(c) The decline capital formation in the agriculture sector is attributed to decrease in public sector investment, insufficient increase in agricultural incomes and lesser production levels in the years of unfavourable weather conditions as in 1982-83.. 1986-87 and 1987-88

The strategy to check the declining trend of capital formation in agriculture sector would include increasing the proportion of planned investment allocated to rural sector including for development of infrastructure for agriculture, more efficient use of resources to raise productivity and ensuring incentive prices to farmers to induce them to go for higher investment in agriculture

Development of Agriculture Sector in Punjab

*34. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Punjab Government have finalised the Perspective Plan for 1990-2000 for he multifarious development of the agriculture sector,

(b) if so, the details thereof and the investment likely to be made available therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to approach the World Bank for assistance in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the other assistance Government propose to give to Punjab in this regard?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM (SHRI DEVI LAL) (a) The Punjab Government are in the processes of formulating a perspective plan for integrated development of agriculture sector.

(b) The formulation of the Plan is at a preliminary stage and hence no firm figures of investment are yet available.

(c) and (d) A decision in this matter can be taken only after the project is finalised

National Water-shed Development Programme for rainfed Agriculture

*35 SHRI J S. RAJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new scheme of National Water-shed development programme for rainfed agriculture has been launched,

(b) if so, what is the criterion adopted for selection thereof,

(c) whether any specific provision has been made in the selection criterion for the benefit of SC/ST who constitute majority of the small and marginal farmers and landless labour. if so, the details thereof, and

(d) whether it is a fact that the two taluks of Perambur and Ariyalur in Tiruchirapalli District of Tamil Nadu

solely depend upon rainfed agriculture, if so, the details of the provision made for storage tanks for community facility and live-stocks for the benefit of SC/ST?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM (SHRI DEVI LAL) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Extent of irrigation in the NES Blocks, i e , less than 30 per cent of cultivated area served by assured means of irrigation, is the criterion for inclusion of the Blocks in the project

(c) Within the identified Blocks specific provision has been made that group of villages having preponderance of small ad marginal farmers, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes should get priority in selection of the Micro Watershed for the project

(d) Micro watersheds have been selected in the blocks located in predominantly rainfed taluks of Perambur and Ariyalur in Tiruchirapalli District of Tamil Nadu Fifty per cent of the project cost has been ear-marked for development of common property resources and treatment of drainage lines on which a series of small storage structures are provided in the project design for multiple uses by the Watershed Community

Package of Benefits to Farmers

*36 KUMARI ALIA. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to announce a package of benefits to the farmers,

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b) The Government is formulating a comprehensive Agricultural Policy to bring about an accelerated pace of development in agriculture and allied activities, and to ensure that the benefits from such development reach all sections of rural society

(c) Efforts are being made to finalise the policy as early as possible

Suspension/Termination of trains to Ayodhya on the occasion of 'Karseva'

*37 SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) the number of passenger/goods trains suspended or terminated at their intermediate journeys, in the context of preventing traffic to Ayodhya on the occasion of Karseva there on the 30th October, 1990;

(b) the number of days of suspension/termination in each case,

(c) the overall total loss to the Railways as a result thereof, and

(d) the reasons for which the passenger trains could not be terminated at the pre-declared stations so that passengers would not have embarked and got harassed by the unexpected mid-way termination of the trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) 84 pairs of trais

(b) It varied from one day to seventeen days

(c) While it is not possible to quantify the losses precisely, they are estimated to be approximately Rs 25 crores

(d) To the extent cancellation or termination short of destination could